(c) Concerned District Appropriate Authority as per the decision taken by concerned District Advisory Committee under the PC&PNDT Act has taken suitable action against the ultrasound centres.

(d) To consider the proposed amendments in the PC&PNDT Act, to strengthen its implementation and related issues, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Health & Family Welfare has been constituted. The National Support and Monitoring Cell (NSMC) constituted to focus on the vulnerable States of Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Chandigarh and Delhi for strict implementation of the Act is being strengthened by appointment of one full time lawyer and an administrative leader for the cell. Annual Report on implementation of the PC&PNDT Act 2006 and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) useful for layperson, medical community and Appropriate Authorities have been formulated. Training of lower Judiciary and Public Prosecutors from State Judicial Academies would be done during 2007-08.

To create awareness on the issue, various activities will be under taken through radio, television and print media units. Workshop and seminars are constantly been organized on the issue at State/Regional/District/ Block levels by Central/State/voluntary organizations. "Save the Girl Child" campaign with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls has been launched. The brand ambassador for 2007-08 is being selected.

Regulations of DDT Maximum Residue Level in food products

2826. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the countries including US have imposed stringent regulations on DDT maximum Residue Level in food products;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Codex India has been openly favouring DDT levels of five mg per kg of poultry or meat;

(c) MRL prescribed by WHO and FAO in this regard;

(d) whether Government have sought expert opinion in this regard and if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose any steps to safeguard the health of people who buy high level DDT MRL food products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) In the country, there is a ban on the use of DDT in agriculture. DDT is, however, allowed to be used for vector control (Malaria Programme) in the country.

The Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) for DDT in various food commodities has been prescribed under Prevention of foods commodities has been prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1995 for the reason that even though, it is not permitted to be used in agriculture, DDT being one of the pesticides, which persists in the environment, it is generally detected in food commodities, feed and fodder.

The Maximum Tolerance Limits (MTL) for DDT on Meat, Poultry and fish (on whole product basis) has been prescribed as 7.0 ppm. in consultation with the Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS), the statutory committee under the PFA Act, 1954 to advise the Central Government on implementation of the Act.

The current Codex level (as in 2006) for DDT in meat (from mammals other than marine mammals) is 5.0 mg/kg (on fat basis) and in poultry meat, it is 0.3 mg/kg. During 35th Session of Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) held in 2003, there was a proposal to revise the current level for DDT in meat from 5 mg/kg to 1 mg/kg. India had proposed in their comments that Extraneous Maximum Residies Limit (EMRL) for DDT on meat should be retained at 5 mg/kg (on fat basis), which ensures consumer protection. Fixation of a lower level, on the other hand might result in difficulty of exports from India.

Advertisement of medilines in the Media

2827. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the advertisements appearing in the media claiming to cure diseases like cancer, HIV/AIDS by individuals/ companies manufacturing Ayurvedic medicines;